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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Robert D. Shedd Thomson Licensing LLC 2 Independence Way PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			EXAMINER BEHARRY, NOEL R	
			ART UNIT 2446	PAPER NUMBER
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/521,302

**Applicant(s)**

PASQUIER ET AL.

**Examiner**

NOEL BEHARRY

**Art Unit**

2446

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 23-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 23-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/09/2007
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is in response to Application No. 11/521,302 filed December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Claims 1-22 have been canceled by a preliminary amendment, claims 23-52 are pending and have been examined.

#### ***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 38, 41, and 44 recites the limitation "specification module". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claims 39, 42, and 45 recites the limitation "recognition module". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

#### ***Double Patenting***

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent

and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 23, 34, 47-49 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 26, 35, 37, 46-48 of copending Application No. 10/519,633. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because these claims are

directed towards the same invention and recite the same limitations which are obvious variants of each other.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

9. **Claims 50-52** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 which reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

10. **Claims 50-52** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In this case, for example claim 50 recites, "computer programme product, wherein it comprises programme code instructions for executing the steps of one of the activation process according to Claim 47 when said programme is executed on a computer" would normally be considered statutory unless the specification defines "computer programme product" as including intangible media such as signals, carrier waves, transmissions, optical waves, transmission media or other media incapable of being touched or perceived absent the tangible medium through which they are conveyed.

**Claims 50-52** are not limited to tangible embodiments. Specifically, in view of the specifications page 20, lines 3-9, the computer programme product is not limited to tangible embodiments, instead it has been defined/exemplified as including both

tangible embodiments [e.g. removable storage drive, hard disk] and intangible embodiments [e.g. signals or transmission or carrier medium/media]. As such the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non statutory.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 23-32, and 34-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Solvason (WO 02/21840 A2).

**Regarding claim 23,**

Recognition unit for recognizing synchronization signals in at least one audiovisual programme received, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, said recognition unit comprising:

a reception module and a recording module (106 of Fig. 1) for recording in a storage space, recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, (a server can monitor the media signal, extract action definitions, and transmit the actions to clients, Page 10, Lines 4-6)

a reception module for receiving via a broadcasting network, at least one transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, (106 of Fig. 1 & Page 10, Lines 9-11)

a detection module for detecting said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme received, by means of said recognition elements stored in said storage space, by recognition in the content of said audiovisual programme received, of said extracted portion, (106 of Fig. 1 & Page 10, Lines 1-11) and

a transmission module for transmitting action instructions in case of detection of said synchronization signals in said audiovisual programme, said instructions being designed to trigger at least one action, (Page 9, Lines 17-24)

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive among said recognition elements, instructions for extracting said extracted portion from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the stream reception module, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received, and in that said recording module is designed to directly extract said portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said portion in the storage space. (Page 10, Lines 12-24)

**Regarding claim 24,**

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is designed to receive a triggering message and in that the recording module is designed to extract and record

upon receipt of said triggering message, said portion of said previously received stream.  
(Page 10, Lines 12-24)

**Regarding claim 25,**

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive among said recognition elements, at least one identifier of said extracted portion, and in that said detection module is capable of retrieving from the storage space said previously recorded extracted portion associated with said identifier, so as to recognize in the content of said audiovisual program received said extracted portion.  
(Page 10, Lines 12-24)

**Regarding claim 26,**

wherein the module for receiving the recognition elements is also designed to receive directly the said extracted portion among the said recognition elements and the recording module is designed to record the said extracted portion in the storage space.  
(Page 10, Lines 1-11)

**Regarding claim 27,**

wherein the recognition unit also comprises a timeout module before dispatch of said action instructions by the transmission module. (Page 8, Line 14 – Page 9, Line 24)

**Regarding claim 28,**



wherein the modules for receiving and for recording recognition elements and the module for transmitting action instructions are designed to respectively receive, record and transmit identifiers relating to the said actions to be triggered. (Page 9, Lines 11-24)

**Regarding claim 29,**

wherein each of said portions of content consists of at least one of the following portions: a picture, a piece of a picture, a sound and any combination of at least two of said portions. (Page 9, Lines 11-24)

**Regarding claim 30,**

wherein said recognition elements include at least one Boolean operator, said detection module being designed to detect at least two of said portions of content in conjunction with said Boolean operator and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection. (Page 10, Line 22 - Page 11, Line 8)

**Regarding claim 31,**

wherein said recognition elements include at least one time information item, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said time information item and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection. (Page 8, Line 14 - Page 9, Line 24)

**Regarding claim 32,**

wherein said time information item comprises at least one information item chosen from among a date of detection and a detection time slot. (Page 10, Lines 12-19)

**Regarding claim 34,**

Specification unit for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, and said synchronization signals being intended to be detected in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network and to thus trigger at least one action, (Page 6, 10-13 and Page 9, Lines 11-24)

wherein said specification unit comprises:

a preparation module for preparing recognition elements making it possible to obtain at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, (Page 6, Lines 10-13) and

a transmission module for transmitting said recognition elements independently of transmissions of said audiovisual programme, to at least one recognition unit intended to detect said synchronization signals in said transmitted stream carrying said audiovisual programme, by recognizing said extracted portion in the content of said audiovisual programme, (Page 6, Lines 14-17) and

wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit extraction instructions, in at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, for extracting said portion of content, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received. (Page 10, Lines 12-24)

**Regarding claim 35,**

wherein the preparation and transmission modules of said unit are designed respectively to prepare and transmit identifiers relating to said actions to be triggered in the case of detection of said synchronization signals. (Page 9, Lines 11-24)

**Regarding claim 36,**

wherein said action identifiers relate to at least one of the following actions: transmission of an interactive service, triggering of an interactive service, triggering of an update of an interactive service, triggering of a recording of said audiovisual programme and connection to a website. (Page 9, Lines 11-24)

**Regarding claim 37,**

synchronization system comprising:

a specification unit for specifying synchronization signals associated with at least one audiovisual programme, said audiovisual programme comprising an audiovisual

content intended to be transmitted to users and control information, (Page 6, Lines 10-13)

a recognition unit for recognizing said synchronization signals in at least one stream carrying said audiovisual programme transmitted via a broadcasting network, by recognizing at least one extracted portion of the content of said audiovisual programme, in the audiovisual programme received, (Page 10, Lines 1-11) and

an activation unit designed to trigger at least one action in the case of detection of said synchronization signals by the recognition unit, (Page 9, Lines 11-24)

wherein the specification unit is designed to prepare and transmit to the recognition unit recognition elements making it possible to obtain said extracted portion and comprising instructions for extracting said portion of the content from at least one stream of an audiovisual programme previously received by the recognition unit via the broadcasting network, said portion being extracted from said audiovisual programme previously received, and in that the recognition unit is designed to directly extract said portion of said stream according to said extraction instructions and to record said portion. (Page 10, Lines 12-24)

**Regarding claim 38**, broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a specification module in accordance with claim 34. (110 of Fig. 1 & Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 39**, broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a recognition module in accordance with claim 23. (112 & 106 of Fig. 1 & Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 40**, broadcasting centre, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with claim 37. (Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 41**, services operator, wherein it comprises a specification module in accordance with claim 34. (110 of Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 42**, services operator, wherein it comprises a recognition module in accordance with claim 23. (112 & 106 of Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 43**, services operator, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with claim 37. (Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 44**, terminal, wherein it comprises a specification module in accordance with claim 34. (110 of Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 45**, terminal, wherein it comprises a recognition module in accordance with claim 23. (112 & 106 of Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 46**, terminal, wherein it comprises a synchronization system in accordance with claim 37. (Fig. 1 &Page 5-6)

**Regarding claim 47 and 50**, this claim is substantially the same as claim 23; same rationale of rejection is applicable.

**Regarding claim 48 and 51**, this claim is substantially the same as claim 34; same rationale of rejection is applicable.

**Regarding claim 49 and 52**, this claim is substantially the same as claim 37; same rationale of rejection is applicable.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Solvason in view of Blackketter et al. (Blackketter hereafter) (US 2002/0056129 A1).

**Regarding claim 33**, Solvason fails to explicitly teach,

wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection.

However, Blackketter teaches, wherein said recognition elements include at least one channel reference, said detection module being designed to detect said portions of content in conjunction with said channel reference and the transmission module being designed to transmit said action instructions in case of such detection. (Par. 0013)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time of the invention to create the invention of Solvason to include the above recited limitations as taught by Blackketter in order to allow the user to be able to change channels but still have the action execute once the user puts back the channel. (Par. 0013)

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NOEL BEHARRY whose telephone number is (571)270-5630. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T 10-2.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 2446

/Jeffrey Pwu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2446